



### In this edition

- 2010 Community Survey Results
- [2011 Budget Proposal](#)
- [City Council Action](#)
- [Lunch and Learn](#)
- [SABCA Code Training Survey](#)
- [New Information Bulletin](#)
- [New Stormwater Inspection](#)
- [Performance Measures](#)
- [Permit Activity](#)

### Join Our Mailing List!

If you would like to receive updates, important information or notifications about special training events, please join our department mailing list.

## Planning & Development Services

### August 2010 Newsletter

## 2010 City of San Antonio Community Survey



Recently, the results of the Community Survey were released by the City. The survey was conducted to assess resident satisfaction with the delivery of various city services. According to the results, 84% of respondents were either very satisfied or satisfied with the ease of obtaining permits from the Department, an increase of 4% from 2008. We hope to continue to improve and make our department the best to work with in the country! The final report for all City services can be found at:

English -

<http://cosadev/communitysurvey/2010CommunitySurvey-Eng.asp>

Spanish -

<http://cosadev/communitysurvey/2010CommunitySurvey-Spanish.asp>

## FY 2011 Budget Proposal



On August 12th, the City Manager presented the FY 2011 Proposed Budget to City Council. During her presentation, Ms. Sculley recommended the creation of a new department; Planning and Community Development, to provide a coordinated focus on redevelopment by consolidating functions currently located in various departments across the City. Those functions are:

- Comprehensive and Neighborhood Planning
- Specialized and Regional Planning
- City South Management Authority Partnership
- Tax Increment Financing (TIF) Program Housing Programs

- Ft. Sam Houston Community Development Office
- Neighborhood Commercial Revitalization (NCR) Program

The reorganization returns the old roles that Development Services and Planning had prior to our consolidation two years ago with additional responsibilities for Planning relating to revitalization. This reorganization will not cause a reduction in force. An advantage of the reorganization is the capacity of Planning is increased to allow a more cohesive focus on redevelopment. In addition, the reorganization will enable a renewed focus on Development Services' three core goals of (1) improving cycle time for permitting; (2) ensuring consistency and quality of inspections; and (3) enhancing customer service.

The budget also includes the following revenue enhancements:

- Reduce minimum fee for after hour inspections from \$100/hour with a two hour minimum to \$100/hour with a one hour minimum
- Reduce fee for event notification from \$20/commercial permit, \$10/residential permit and \$6/trade permit to \$1/permit
- Restructuring the document management fee to a flat fee based on the size of the project
- Establishing a minimum value of \$30,000 for swimming pool permits
- Increasing permit refund fee from \$25 to \$50
- Establishing minimum permit fee for sidewalks/curbs of \$50/permit
- Establishing a building/suite assignment fee of \$100/building and \$20/suite
- Establishing a fee for linking permits of \$5/permit for residential and \$10/permit for commercial
- Establishing a cancellation fee for SABCA of \$50 if registration is cancelled within one week of the event
- Establishing a plan amendment refund fee of \$100/request
- Establishing fee to issue building permit ready/status letter fee of \$50/request

For additional details on the budget, go to <http://www.sanantonio.gov/budget/>



## City Council Action

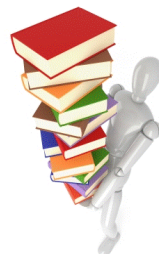
**UDC Amendment to Form Based Development:** On August 5, 2010, City Council approved an amendment to the Unified Development Code on Form Based Development. The amendment allows educational functions in specialized districts as well as adjustment to principal building setback requirements.

**HUD Sustainable Communities Regional Planning Grant:** On August 19, 2010, City Council approved the submission of a grant application for the Sustainable Communities Regional Planning Grant. The Sustainable Communities Regional Planning Grant supports metropolitan and multi-jurisdictional planning efforts that integrate housing, economic and workforce development, transportation and infrastructure investments.

## Lunch and Learn Training Events

Planning and Development Services offers Lunch and Learn training sessions taught by experts in their respective disciplines. These free sessions now require a reservation to attend. There is a special session coming up outside the normal time of our Lunch and Learn events, but will be beneficial and informative.

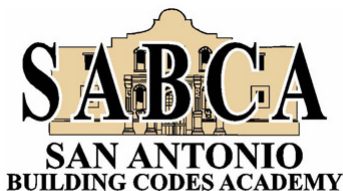
**Aug 27th, 9:00 - 11:00AM: Tree Preservation Ordinance**



A copy of the presentation used in the above training is available at <http://www.sanantonio.gov/dsd/pdf/InHouseTreeOrdinanceTraining.pdf>

Our monthly Lunch and Learn schedule, as well as the registration link for the events, can be found on our Lunch and Learn [website](#). If you have a topic for a future Lunch and Learn training event, send us an [e-mail](#) with your topic and your contact information.

## SABCA Code Training Survey



Last month, in preparation for our next San Antonio Building Codes Academy (SABCA) event, we asked for your feedback concerning the topics you wanted the steering committee to consider hosting for the October 2010 SABCA session. To date, we have only received eleven responses to our survey. The Department's vision concerning these courses has always been to bring the members of the development community and

Central/South Texas municipalities, and our staff together and hearing firsthand from the code writers the true intent and interpretation of our adopted codes. In light of the current economic situation the development community faces and survey participation rate, we are considering scaling back our SABCA training sessions to two events each year. If you are interested in a Fall SABCA session, we need to hear from you by August 27, 2010. The survey is located [here](#) and will remain active to collect your feedback concerning future SABCA sessions. We appreciate your responses and welcome your feedback. Thank you.

## New Information Bulletins

We recently posted this [Information Bulletin](#) to our website [www.sanantonio.gov/dsd](http://www.sanantonio.gov/dsd):

**[IB 187-Residential Fire Flow Requirements and Procedures](#)**- the purpose of this Information Bulletin is to describe the requirements for one and two family residential structures as well as development of the mains that serve residential developments. The requirements are set forth in the 2009 International Fire Code sec. 102.5, 507 and B105.1.

## New Storm Water Inspection

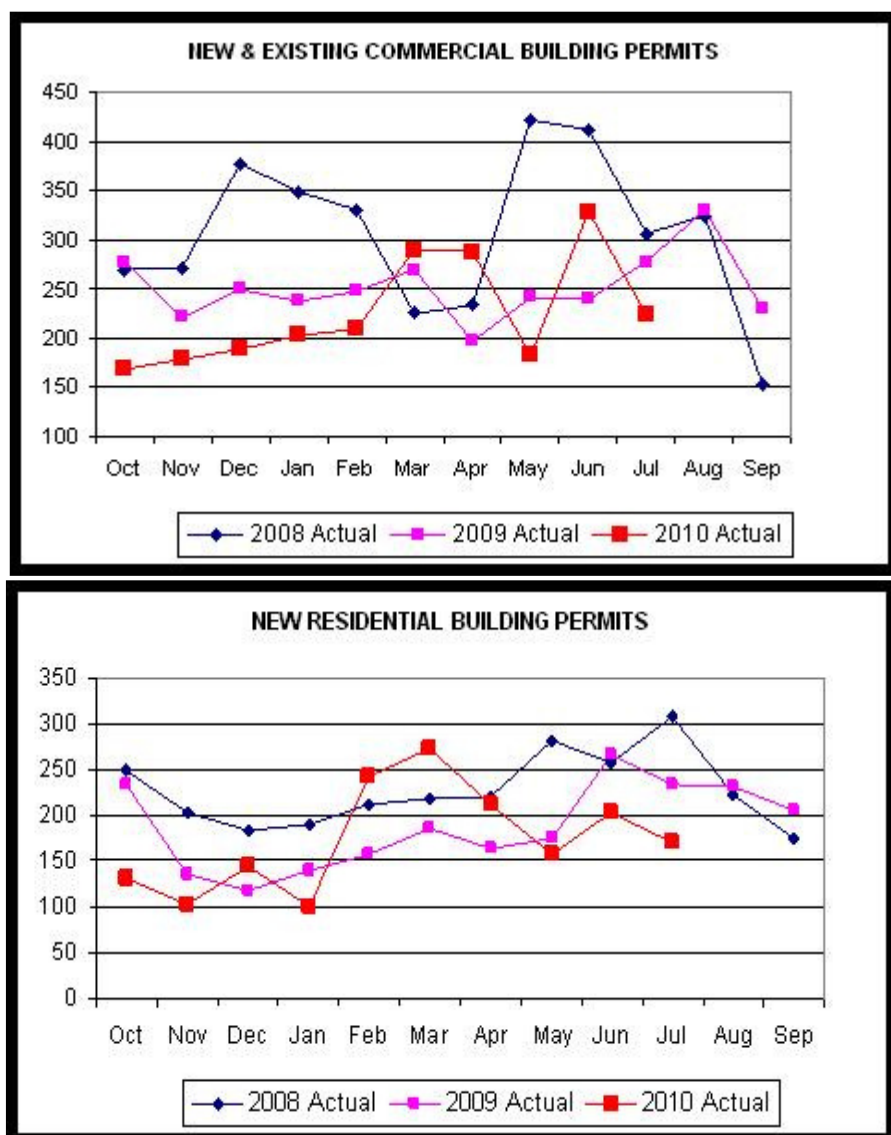
Effective September 1st, staff will insert a flood inspection on your Application Permit if Storm Water determines that an Elevation Certification or other requirement is needed prior to issuing the Certificate of Occupancy. This "inspection" can only be cleared by Storm Water Engineering after receipt and approval of the Elevation Certificate or other required documentation.

## FY 2010 Performance Measures

July Performance Data:

Activity	Performance
Major Plats Technical Review (Goal: 35 Calendar Days only)	13 Calendar Days (PDSD)
Residential Plans Review (Goal: 3 Working Days)	3 Working Days
Complex Commercial Plan Review(Goal: 18 Calendar Days)	16 Calendar Days
Inspections Performed as Scheduled (Goal: 96%)	98% as Scheduled
Call Center Telephone Abandonment Rate (Goal: 5%)	2% Abandoned
Customer Service Survey Score (Scale 1-5, highest is 5)	4.79

## Monthly Permit Activity



Do you have an idea for an article or recurring column in our monthly newsletter? Send us an [e-mail](#) and let us know!

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